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NECRO JOURNALISM AGAIN.

A Practical Journalist Discusses the Combination of a Few Well Established Newspapers and Their Forces—The Impossibility of the Scheme—Messrs. Fortune, Mitchell, Cooper, Manly and Chase Named.

We hear a great deal of talk now and then about a monster newspaper combination, from which a national Negro daily is to be evolved. Somebody from somewhere writes that the Richmond Planet, The Colored American and the New York Age—sometimes it is this combination and sometimes it is varied slightly—anyhow the idea is that these representative journals are to poll issues and merge their forces into a single paper to be published here. Let us see. One proposition names Mr. Edward E. Cooper as editor, with Thomas Fortune, John Mitchell as staff writers, and A. L. Manly, of the Daily Record, is mentioned as possible material for city editor or reporter. This seems to be the popular combination, and somebody here suggests that the paper be issued simultaneously at Washington and New York—perhaps the gentleman is a disciple of Alfred Harmsworth and wishes to spread the tabloid fashion of journalism.

It is my humble opinion that all such schemes are visionary and impossible, however well they may read on paper. It is an unfortunate circumstance that there is so much jealousy among the leaders of the newspaper world that the forces that might make good cannot work in harmony together. It is regrettable, but it is true, and a fact that must be taken account of when union is talked of. Each is a "big fish," and when the swallowing act is consummated, each wants to be the one that absorbs the others. There does not seem to be an acceptance of the Schley theory that "there is glory enough for us all." Again, with each editor picking up what he can financially, in most any way he can, dabbling here and there, with little regard for system or method, paying to his help what he can spare, and of times keeping his books in his head, what hope could there be that an honest division of revenues could be made with satisfaction to men who place as high a value upon their services as Messrs. Cooper, Mitchell, Fortune or Manly? Upon what policy could any two of these able thinkers agree for two consecutive days? During what single week could their political and personal interests be identical so as to produce a consistent race organ? Experience has fully shown that one large that might be powerful in concert are scattered and weakened by the jealousies, bickerings, unfair dealing and forlorn desire for spurious display of greatness. Three papers are not needed in Washington, for the support which The Colored American, The Bee and the Record receive would not, if combined pay three capable men for their full time. Whether this is the fault of the people or the misfortune of the publishers may be an open question. The people have the money. Each of the men has ample experience in the business.



REV. S. A. HOWELL,
Pastor of Wesley Grove Christian Church, Newport News, Va.

How can the producer and consumer be brought together on a profitable basis? Would consolidation solve the problem, if one could possibly dream of the man on a paper is all that it can stand, and the remainder of the staff must be obscure individuals, to be content with a little of prominence and small financial returns. As rapidly as the big men need a paper, instead of attempting the impossible in the way of combining with existing sheet, he must start one of his own, and be "the whole thing."

In this way newspapers are multiplied and real influence destroyed. Forces unique firm of Cooper, Chase, and Manly equal sharers? It was not my intention to go into this question deeply, but it is a subject which gives rise to an infinite sea of speculation, and offers much that is positively interesting. The country would be glad to hear Messrs. Cooper, Fortune, Chase, Manly, Mitchell, et al., and learn their views upon a policy which they as principals could speak with authority. Are they in sympathy with the combination idea suggested in The American a few days ago? Is such a combination feasible? If so, upon what basis? We need fewer and better papers, but who will submit to being absorbed and deposed from absolute leadership, even if that leadership be a cheap and tawdry thing? If a daily is really wanted here, why not give Mr. Manly a subscription list of

10,000 out of 90,000 Negroes in Washington?

It would not interfere with the weekly field so well sustained by Messrs. Cooper and Chase. If consolidation is the proper thing, why not merge The American and The Bee, absorb The Record, the property all reverting to the corporation, with the three proprietors as a board of control, print the Record as a daily, using the American and its national clientele as the weekly edition of the Record—or whatever name may be agreed upon. Choose an editor, business manager, a cashier and employ heads of departments, with power to develop their work along approved lines. If anything can be done in the way of consolidation, and these men can get along in harmony, this strikes your correspondent as the best plan. That it will all end in talk of the "hot air" variety, however, is the humble, but sorrowful opinion of
R. W. THOMPSON.
—In The Freeman.

Here's a Novelty.

Some great colored men who are little known at the present day will be presented to the Bethel Literary and Historical Association next Tuesday evening by Mr. Daniel Murray of the Library of Congress and Mr. W. B. Hayson of the High School.

IN GOD'S KINGDOM.

A Gifted Young Divine Goes to a Barren Field and Smites the Rock—His Efforts are Crowned With Blessings—The Career of Rev. S. A. Howell—Notes of his Work.

"The righteous shall flourish as a branch," says the scriptures, and never was this passage better exemplified than in the life of Rev. S. A. Howell, whose manly face adorns this page. Born amidst the roaring of the cannon and the booming of the guns that struck the shackles of slavery from his people, his life has been devoted exclusively to the further emancipating them from ignorance and sin. Going to Newport News a few years back, he found the Wesley Grove Christian church struggling in the throes of poverty—both in finance and numbers. By almost superhuman efforts by day and by night he has raised it to a standard of enviable excellence. He found his church a shabby sandwich in between "bars and bad women"—in a place not calculated to draw all elements—all classes up to him. He soon purchased ground on 19th street in a most desirable location, where he has erected a beautiful structure, dedicated to God and His kingdom, also a handsome parsonage along side of it.

Rev. Howell's revivals are the most largely attended and usually show greater results than any other in these parts. With the cares of his family and his church and other business affairs, he finds time "to teach the young ideas to shoot," having a large school in his old place of worship, requiring an assistant to help him in his efforts to raise our people to a higher standard of civilization. He is distinctly a scholar and thinker and his style of oratory is strikingly convincing and enticing for his pews are ever crowded. He is held in the highest regard by the people of Newport News and the denomination with which he is identified, being President of the United Christian Convention South and editor of the Religious Inquirer, an organ devoted to the Master's work and the diffusion of general knowledge to our race. A perusal of its columns shows that it's editor is a writer of no mean ability. Much of his success he attributes to his wife who is an indefatigable worker in whatever interests him. Being yet a long ways from "old age" he has many days of usefulness before him which as in the past will be spent in building up the Master's kingdom.

Watson Park Opening.

The above delightful summer resort had its formal opening to the public Tuesday, April 30th. This ideal place was thronged with pleasure seekers who either strolled about the beautiful laid out park or listened to the delightful strains of music by Prof. Benj. Holmes' Orchestra. A lunch was prepared by the ever genial proprietor and all enjoyed the festivities of the occasion.